

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4581

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJ: MORE VIOLENCE IN BASQUE PROVINCES

REF: MADRID 0984

1. ON FEB 10, FOR SECOND DAY IN ROW, TERRORISTS GUNNED DOWN ANOTHER PERSON IN BASQUE PROVINCES. PERSON KILLED YESTERDAY WAS 37-YEAR OLD MECHANIC, JULIAN GALARZA AYASTUI, WHO WAS SHOT TO DEATH IN STREET ON HIS WAY HOME FROM WORK IN THE TOWN OF CIZURQUIL. HIS YOUTHFUL ASSAILANT THEN JUMPED INTO A STOLEN TAXI WITH TWO COMPANIONS AND ESCAPED. KILLING IS PRESUMED TO HAVE BEEN BY ETA.

2. MOTIVE FOR ASSASSINATION OF GALARZA IS STILL UNCLEAR, INASMUCH AS VICTIM WAS NEVER KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY TYPE OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY, NOR WAS HE REPORTEDLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE REGIME IN ANY WAY. OUR BILBAO CONSUL REPORTS MOST GENERAL OPINION IS THAT ETA MISTOOK GALARZA FOR MAYOR OF CIZURQUIK, WHO LIVES IN IMMEDIATE VICINITY WHERE KILLING TOOK PLACE AND BEARS A CERTAIN PHYSICAL RESEMBLANCE TO GALARZA, AND THAT IT WAS THE MAYOR OF THE LOCALITY WHOM THE ETA THOUGHT THEY WERE ASSASSINATING. HE ALSO REPORTS BOTH THIS VERSION OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY IN THIS KILLING, AS WELL

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AS OF THE ASSASSINATION THE PRVIOUS DAY (FOR WHICH THE ETA

HAS CLAIMED CREDIT IN COMMUNIQUE RELEASED TO FREFEH PRESS)
OF THE MAYOR OF GALDACANO, WHO WAS WELL-KNOWN FOR HIS ANTI-BASQUE VIEWS, WOULD FIT IN WITH THE PUBLIC THREAT OF THE MILITARY WING OF THE ETA FIFTH ASSEMBLY TO RECOMMENCE THE ASSASSINATION OF GOVT OFFICIALS AND OTHER WELL-KNOWN REGIME "COLLABORATORS" IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY IN FEB. POLICE ALSO TOOK DOWN FEB 11 A BASQUE SEPARTIST FLAG APPARENTLY ATTACHED TO EXPLOSIVE DEVICE IN PAMPLONA. THIS TYPE OF BOOBY TRAP WAS USED EARLIER TO KILL PUBLIC ORDER MEMBERS.

3. COMMENT: THESE TWO ASSASSINATIONS, COUPLED WITH THE KIDNAPPING IN JAN OF THE STILL-MISSING JOSE LUIS ARASTE, SON OF A BASQUE INDUSTRIALIST, BY A RIVAL ETA FACTION, APPEAR TO HERALD THE COMMENCEMENT OF A RENEWED CYCLE OF ETA VIOLENCE AND THE END OF WHAT HAD BEEN A SORT OF DE FACTO TRUCE. IT APPEARS TO REFLECT A DESIRE TO FORCE THE GOVT INTO REPRESSIVE MEASURES ONCE AGAIN IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY, IN ORDER TO LAUNCH A RENEWED CYCLE OF VIOLENCE AND COUNTER-VIOLENCE. ADDITIONALLY, OUR BILBAO CONSUL REPORTS THAT OBSERVERS IN THE BASQUE PROVINCES BELIEVE THEREIS ALSO A STRONG ELEMENT OF COMPETITION AND ONEUPSMANSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO PRINCIPAL FACTIONS OF THE ETA FIFTH ASSEMBLY, I.E., THE MILITARY WING AND THE RIVAL POLITICO-MILITARY WING, WHO ARE EACH NOW TRYING TO PROVE TO THE BASQUE PUBLIC THAT THEY CAN OUTDO THE OTHER IN PERPETRATING ACTS OF VIOLENCE.
STABLER

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